The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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WORKERS DON'T OWN HOMES

Detroit, May 19.—In an arbitration hearing on the wage dispute between the Detroit United Railways and the Street Car Men's union the workers showed that out of 1,453 members of this organization, but 23 own their own homes free from debt; 198 of them are trying to pay for homes; of those paying for their homes, they were paying anywhere from $15 to $60 a month—the majority of them paying between $25 and $40, or trying to pay that amount; 559 of them were paying rent and out of that number 432 have had their rents raised, ranging from $1 to $27 a month, since Jan. 1, 1916. The average rent per month now paid is $27.70, and the average increase in rents since Jan. 1, 1916, to the present time had been $7.69½ per month; 673 were paying board and 549 of these had their board increased since Jan. 1, 1916.

The street car men are asking 40 cents an hour for the first six months and 45 cents thereafter. Their present scale is: First six months, 27½ cents an hour; next year, 32½ cents; thereafter, 35 cents.

One of the features of the arbitration proceedings was the testimony of non-union employes who "voluntarily" appeared.

H. F. Coleman, of Fort Wayne, Ind., a motorman, said: "I came here to testify against these men getting an increase in wages because I was asked to come here." The witness said he did not know how interurban employes around Indianapolis get their wages raised, but "expected the company granted the increase voluntarily."

Another non-unionist testified: "Have been told that if the union gets an increase through this arbitration board, I will get the same. Can't say whether these men ought to have an increase or not. Am perfectly satisfied myself."

LABORERS UNITE; RAISE WAGES.

Peoria, Ill., May 19.—Hod Carriers and Common Laborers' union has been strengthened by the amalgamation of another organization and these workers immediately profited by a united front. Wages are increased to 40 cents an hour until November 1, when an additional 2 1-2 cents an hour will be paid until May 1, 1918, when conferences or arbitration, if necessary, will arrange a new scale. The agreement is signed by the Master Masons' association and will continue for five years.

Louisville, Ky., May 19.—Organized hod carriers have been successful in enforcing their new rate of 45 cents an hour except in the case of but two contractors.

Albany, N. Y., May 19.—President D'Alessandro of the Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers' International union reports the following recent agreements secured by affiliates, which includes the eight-hour day and time and one-half for overtime:

Boston—Excavators, 40 cents an hour; masons' tenders, 42 1-2 cents; scaffold builders, 45 cents. Worcester, Mass.—Building laborers, 45 cents. Springfield, Mass.—Excavators, $3 a day. Westerly, R. I.—Increase from $2.50 to $3 a day for all classes of work. Cleveland—45 cents an hour for building laborers.

President D'Alessandro says the referendum has approved the international organization erecting a building for its own use.

HOW TO SECURE WORKERS.

Barre, Vt., May 19.—"Many quarry operators are having some trouble getting workmen of different kinds, and are wondering just what can be done to remedy the situation," says Secretary-Treasurer Suitor of the Quarry Workers' International union. The trade unionist offers this advice:

"We would suggest that the best solution is to come up on the wages so that it may be possible for the men to stay at work in the quarries and be able to live and provide for their families.

"I am pleased to be able to admit that we have not a few operators who are doing all they can to meet this situation in the way suggested above, but theirs is an uphill fight and there are others who are trying to get along without granting any increase in wages or to co-operate in putting the industry into a position whereby it will be able to give the workmen what rightly belongs to them."

ELECTRICAL WORKERS GAIN.

Peoria, Ill., May 19.—Electrical Workers' union No. 34 has signed a two-year union shop agreement with contractors. The first year wages shall be 61 1-2 cents an hour for journeymen and 67 1-2 cents for foremen; second year, 65 and 70 cents. The Saturday half holiday and time and one-half for overtime on Saturday afternoons is agreed to, with double time for Sundays and holidays.

Cleveland, May 19.—Beginning November 1 members of Electrical Workers' union No. 38 will receive an additional 25 cents a day and on the following May 1 another 25 cents a day, making the minimum wage $4.20. Overtime will be double these rates.

CAR MEN RAISE WAGES.

Peoria, Ill., May 19.—Street Car Men's union No. 416 has secured a new contract which raises wages from 2 to 5 cents an hour. During the 12 months this union has been in existence it has increased rates over 150 per cent.

San Francisco, May 19.—The board of public works has voted to raise the wages of municipal street car employes as follows:

Platform men, from $3 to $3.50 a day; track men, from $3 to $3.50; car men, from $3.50 to $4.

POTTERS RAISE WAGES.

East Liverpool, Ohio, May 19.—A general wage increase has been secured by the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters as a result of conferences with the United States Potters' association. Clay workers are advanced 5 per cent; women workers, 10 per cent and slipmakers 16 2-3 per cent.

The union has an agreement with their employers which prevented them from making direct demands for increases, but the latter accepted the workers' claim that present living costs make increases necessary.

UNORGANIZED WIN STRIKE.

Chicago, May 19.—The strike of unorganized workers at the plant of the Stewart-Warner Speedometer Corporation has been settled with most of the strikers members of organized labor. The company attempted to employ girls who were to receive one-half the wages of the men.

PORTO RICANS JOIN UNION.

San Juan, Porto Rico, May 19.—Tobacco workers employed by the Porto Rico American Tobacco company have organized a local of the Tobacco Workers' International union, affiliated with the A. F. of L.

TERMS OF ARMY DRAFT BILL.

Washington, May 19.—The senate and house of representatives disagreed on the ages of men to be drafted under the new army bill and the measure was referred to conferees of both houses, who agreed that those drafted under the act shall be between the ages of 21 and 30, both figures to be inclusive. No bounty shall be paid men to enlist and no person shall furnish a substitute.

Every male resident between the designated ages must register on the date set by the president's proclamation, unless he is in the regular army, or naval militia, the navy or the national guard, actually in the service of the United States. The enrolling will be done in each voting precinct by a person appointed for the purpose, who will be under oath to exempt no one between the specified ages.

After a complete registration is made those persons who are exempted under the law will be removed from the roll and the 500,000 necessary for the first draft will be made by drawing names.

Heavy penalties are provided for failure to register on the date set. Those exempt include food producers, industrial workers whose employment is necessary for the conduct of the war, married men and those having others dependent upon them. The president is empowered to make two drafts of 500,000 each. The federal census department estimates that there are 10,000,000 men in the United States between the ages of 21 and 30.

Washington, May 19.—The provost marshal general has ruled that the conscription law, which applies to males between the ages of 21 and 30 inclusive, applies to all who have not reached their thirty-first birthday. The effect of this decision is to make the figures read "21 to 31" inclusive.

LACK OF EFFICIENCY.

St. Louis, Mo., May 19.—The Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad is suffering from financial mismanagement and is now in the hands of a receiver, says President Perham, of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, whose members have been locked out because of union affiliation. The trade union executive says this railroad property has the finest geographical position of any railroad system in the United States, as it traverses highly productive land from St. Louis and Kansas City on the north to Galveston and San Antonio on the south.

"The inherent strength of the proposition would cause it to make a good showing, even if it was left alone, but those who do not want it to prosper find it necessary to bring on labor troubles without any apparent cause," says President Perham.

"Look at the list of wages paid their telegraphers and station agents in the schedule issued by them as late as October, 1916. Note the positions that pay $35 and $40 a month. It is extremely difficult for men to understand why they should try to still further economize on such low wages. The men have not been able to pay living expenses on that miserable pittance and when they were locked out, although they may have been steadily employed for many years, they did not have a cent and many of them were in debt for bare living necessities."

RE-ELECT OLD OFFICERS.

Harrisburg, Pa., May 19.—At the annual convention of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor President Maurer and Secretary Quinn were re-elected.

The convention denounced the misleading public statement by Wilbur P. Graff, Indiana coal operator, that he would pay $5,000 for 500 men to work 30 days in the mines of his county. Delegate Murray of the United Mine Workers showed that miners at the Graff properties have been on strike for over a year to secure living wages and the operator's statement was an attempt to conceal his efforts to establish a low wage.

WOMEN CONDUCTORS PREDICTED

Harrisburg, Pa., May 19.—Women conductors on street cars in the near future was predicted by traction employers, members of the Pennsylvania State Railway association, at their semi-annual meeting in this city. These managers indicated no alarm at the prospect, but affected a sort of helplessness over a condition that will force them to deal with women instead of men.

To prepare the public for this innovation, which will undoubtedly be followed by an attempt to reduce wages, the managers are agreed, it is stated, "that the companies may as well get ready for this contingency."

COURTS RELAX ON LABOR LAWS.

Harrisburg, Pa., May 19.—In awarding compensation to dependents of employes, regardless of the strict letter of the law, Chairman Mackey of the state compensation board said:

"The courts are rapidly modifying the rigors of the old rules of evidence and are especially recognizing the fact that tribunals for the administration of laws intended to establish social justice must be given as wide latitude as may be consistent with the rights of the parties."

CAN'T PICKET IN EL PASO.

El Paso, Texas, May 19.—The city council has passed an ordinance which prohibits picketing and the Labor Advocate asks:

"Will the anti-picketing ordinance take away the soldiers from in front of the Coney Island saloon?"

United States soldiers are maintaining a boycott on this place and have established a picket line around the saloon because a soldier was assaulted therein.

UNIONISTS ARE ENJOINED.

Springfield, Mass., May 19.—Organized bricklayers and stone cutters of this city and Holyoke refuse to handle the products of the non-union Art Stone company, so this concern has secured a temporary injunction to force the unionists to work on its material. The present policy of these workers, the company avers, hurts its business, which is unconstitutional, confiscatory and unAmerican—or words to that effect.

WANT UNIFORM RATE.

Wilmington, Del., May 19.—Because they were refused a wage increase of 10 cents an hour, members of Carpenters' union No. 626 suspended work. The present rate of 45 cents is 10 cents lower than the nearby city of Chester, Pa., and 15 cents less than that paid in Philadelphia.

RAISE WAGES $3 A WEEK.

Sioux City, Iowa, May 19.—After a strike that lasted less than two days the Teamsters' union secured agreements raising wages $3 a week per member.

LAUNDRY WORKERS GAIN.

San Francisco, May 19.—Organized laundry workers employed in French laundries have secured a nine-hour day.

BRITISH AND CANADIAN SOCIAL CONDITIONS DESCRIBED BY LABOR ENVOYS TO AMERICA

Washington, May 19.—First hand information of present-day social conditions in England and Canada was imparted to nearly 200 unionists, sympathizers and employers, members of the committee on labor of the advisory commission, council of national defense, at a meeting called by President Gompers, in the A. F. of L. building, last Monday, to hear the story from English and Canadian trade unionists. These workers were sent to America by their respective governments on invitation of President Gompers.

British conditions were explained by Charles W. Bowerman, member of parliament and secretary of the British Trades Union Congress, and James H. Thomas, member of parliament and general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen of Great Britain and Ireland. Canadian conditions were treated by J. C. Waters, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and Gideon B. Roberston, senator, and vice president of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers.

Those in attendance manifested especial interest in English conditions, and a summarization of the talks by Bowerman and Thomas shows:

A government act provides there shall be no stoppage of work upon war munitions and related industries. All differences shall be arbitrated. Where arbitration fails provision is made for settlement by government machinery in which the employes are represented equally.

Women are employed where no men are out of work. Women must receive equal pay. Government agrees that the places of the men will be returned to them after the war. There are 1,250,000 women in industry who heretofore were not engaged in manual labor. The women are joining the trade union movement.

Munition workers are enrolled as munition volunteers and are assigned by the government to various parts of England. The highest wages of the district they left or in which they are now employed, is paid. Every fortnight the government gives them free passes on railroads to visit their families, if away from home.

The 51 railroads in Great Britain are under state control on the basis of guaranteed profits of 1914. Some companies have turned back to the government large sums of money which is in excess of their 1914 profits.

Dock workers are enrolled in the army as civilians, and wear the British uniform. These workers must belong to the union, and are mobilized for the purpose of unloading cargoes in any section the government elects. This system was evolved by Lord Kitchener and trade union officials.

No move is made by the government without consulting trade union officials, many of whom are exempted from military service.

Landlords are prohibited from raising rents and the government prohibits employers from reducing wages of pensioned soldiers who have returned to their former employment.

Wages have been increased in proportion to the increased cost of living. When workers demand higher rates, the first question asked is: "What is the increase in the cost of living." That being ascertained, it is added.

The English trade union movement has a larger membership than before the war and it has surrendered no standards definitely, although some are suspended for the time being.

The government has given a pledge to reinstate every trade union practice now suspended.

The government joins with trade unionists in their opposition to child labor on the ground that if the war were won under those conditions it would be lost as future generations would be destroyed.

While the English trade unionists declined to predict future social conditions after the war, they were most optimistic. They declared it was impossible for the millions of men now fighting in the trenches of France and Flanders—employer and employe, from the mansion and even the slum—to return to their homes without having new viewpoints because of the sufferings and sacrifices of themselves and fellows.

The Canadian trade union representatives said the Dominion government has failed to take organized labor into its councils and the conditions the imperial government insists on in England in the manufacture of war munitions are not insisted upon in Canada, and that conditions related by the English unionists have not been secured in their country.

Other speakers included trade unionists and John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and Daniel Guggenheim. The visitors were questioned after the speaking.

The conference visited the white house and paid their respects to President Wilson. The chief executive, in responding to an address by President Gompers, dissented from those who advocate setting aside labor laws because of the war.

RAILROAD EFFICIENCY DON'T BENEFIT PUBLIC

Bismarck, N. D., May 19.—In a letter to an eastern financial paper State Tax Commissioner Packard shatters the theory of railroad managers and their supporters that the public and labor have been the sole beneficiaries of increased efficiency.

The editor stated that "in 10 years the average freight train load has increased 57 per cent without any increase in the net revenue per train mile and the public has received the entire advantage of the gain in the efficiency of operation."

Commissioner Packard disagrees with this statement and writes the editor:

"The increase in the profit per train mile from 1905 to 1915 was 8.483 cents per mile, or approximately 14 per cent, while the rate per passenger per mile for the period shows a slight increase and the rate per ton per mile a decrease of .634 cents per mile or less than 4 1-2 per cent.

"If the increased revenue per train mile is greater than the decreased rate per ton mile and the passenger rate has remained constant it is difficult for me to see how the public has benefited by the increased efficiency of railroad operation.

"As a matter of fact the cost per mile ton and the cost per passenger mile to the public has remained a constant factor while the same is true of labor. It would lengthen this letter beyond all reason if I went into the portion of the gross earnings of railroads which were paid to labor during the past 10 years. Suffice it to say that that percentage has remained a constant factor. It is perfectly clear that the general public has not benefited by this increased efficiency and that labor has been benefited only in proportion to the general benefit conferred upon the other factors entering into the cost of railroad production."

WOMEN'S WAGE LAWS IN SIGHT.

New York, May 19.—Minimum wage laws for women and minors is coming, and manufacturers may as well accept the inevitable instead of clinging to the old "freedom-of-contract" theory.

This is the opinion of the general counsel of the National Association of Manufacturers, at its annual convention in this city.

"We may expect that within a few years," it is stated, "nearly all of the states of the union will have enacted minimum wage laws similar to those already in existence. The historic principle of the freedom of contract is materially limited by this new method of legislative wage standards. The principle urged by the proponents of minimum wage, namely, that minors and women, because of physical characteristics, are in theory wards of the state and require and deserve the protection of the state is now established judicial doctrine."

The report maintained that the minimum wage meant "new standards of wage determinations" and "the lessening of the right of property." Continuing, the report put several questions concerning the possible effect of the minimum wage on the cost of living, the tariff, and foreign trade, and concluded thus: "These and other intricate questions must be intelligently faced by all employers of minors and women in this country."

STATIONARY FIREMEN MEET.

Kansas City, Mo., May 19.—The fourteenth biennial convention of the International Brotherhood of Stationary Firemen was held in this city this week. This enthusiastic gathering of clear-headed trade unionists was in contrast to the less than half a dozen determined stationary firemen who met in this city 19 years ago and formed the present organization, when firemen were working 12 and 14 hours a day, 365 days a year. At that time the firemen had nine locals, with a membership of 444, affiliated to the A. F. of L. Today this international is paying per capita tax to the A. F. of L. on 17,000 members, the eight-hour day is general, wages have been increased and working conditions improved.

SHEET METAL WORKERS GAIN.

Toledo, Ohio, May 19.—Organized sheet metal workers have established the 44-hour work week and a minimum rate of 50 cents an hour. It was necessary to suspend work, however, before employers accepted the new scale.

Sioux City, Iowa, May 19.—The Sheet Metal Workers' union has compromised its strike and secured substantial wage increases and a two-year agreement.

WANT GIRL OILERS.

Connellsville, Pa., May 19.—The Baltimore & Ohio railroad is advertising in local newspapers for girl oilers. The girls will have to oil the journal boxes of freight cars as the trains enter the yards.

BARTENDERS REDUCE HOURS.

Pittsburg, Pa., May 19.—The Bartenders' union has reduced the work week of 72 and 80 hours to not over 60 and raised wages $3 a week.

SAVE FULL CREW LAW.

Albany, N. Y., May 19.—The state legislature adjourned without taking action on the full train crew law repealer, which passed the state senate.

ALLIED PRINTING TRADES UNION LABEL COUNCIL WASHINGTON

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

Chicago, May 19.—Under the above caption the Union Leader, official magazine of organized street car men of this city, says:

"Notwithstanding the suggestion and advice of the national council of defense that existing standards in relation to labor should be maintained, the labor crushers in industry have already commenced to reduce the wage cost of their plants by the substitution of women workers for men at reduced rates of pay. Employers who follow this policy should be branded as traitors.

"While the declaration of a state of war has had little effect upon the supply of men for jobs so far, press reports state that a number of manufacturers are displacing men with women at a less wage than was paid the men.

"'Equal pay for equal work' for women who take the places of men in industry is the trade union slogan. Women who are forced into industry because their husbands, fathers, sons and brothers have been called to the front to protect the liberties of our nation are not only sharing the burdens of war, but must support those who are left behind. The employer who would take advantage of a war crisis to exploit the labor of women should be pronounced not only unpatriotic, but a traitor.

"Whenever it becomes necessary to substitute women for men in the industrial field, the women should receive the same wage as the men. There should be no variation from this rule. Placing low-paid women in competition with men in any line of industry will destroy present standards and work an injury to all.

"The sex of the worker must not determine the pay. Where women are doing the same work as men they should receive the same wages."

BAKERS SIGN CONTRACTS.

San Diego, Cal., May 19.—Bakers' union No. 90 has signed a new wage contract with employers. One-man shops increase rates from $22 to $24 a week for a nine-hour day and a 54-hour week. Extra men are increased from $3.50 to $4 a day.

Detroit, May 19.—Bakers' union No. 20 has added four shops to the union roll, raised wages $4 a week and increased overtime rates from 46 to 75 cents an hour.

St. Louis, Mo., May 19.—Jewish bakers have signed an agreement with employers which reduces the workday from 10 to eight and one-half hours.

Rochester, N. Y., May 19.—Bakers' union No. 14 has established a new wage scale which guarantees foremen $25 a week; dough mixers, oven and second men, $22; bench men, $19; helpers, $15.

STRIKE GUARDS MURDER.

Belleville, Ill., May 19.—Six men, including a patrolman, were probably fatally shot when guards stationed at the Orbon Stove and Range company's plant opened fire on a crowd of strikers and sympathizers. Witnesses testify that the shots were fired without provocation. The first intimation the crowd had was when a blinding searchlight was flashed from the tower of the plant. A fusilade of shots followed.

City authorities have taken charge of the struck foundry and shut it down indefinitely and 35 guards and strikebreakers have been lodged in jail.

The company precipitated the strike by its antagonism to the Stove Mounters' union, which is attempting to better working conditions. Other metal craftsmen have joined the stove mounters and the employers are being supported by the Manufacturers' association.

LABOR LAWS SIDETRACKED.

Albany, N. Y., May 19.—The state assembly has passed Senator Brown's bill to place the enforcement of labor laws during the war period in the hands of the state industrial commission.

Advocates of this plan took full advantage of war conditions to sweep aside the work of years. Applications by employers to be exempt from labor legislation will be passed upon by the commission.

U. S. FAVORS DAY LABOR.

Washington, May 19.—The war department has rejected all bids for the construction of a bridge over the Potomac river and has directed that the work be done by the government on the day labor plan. The lowest bid was $100,000 over the estimate of army engineers, who stated that even with the present high cost of material the day labor plan would be "the most economical and advantageous to the government."

NO EIGHT HOURS FOR WOMEN.

Hartford, Conn., May 19.—The state senate has rejected a proposal to limit the hours of working women and minors to eight hours a day. War conditions was the excuse.

BRICKLAYERS ADVANCE.

Wichita, Kan., May 19.—The Bricklayers' union in this city has raised wages from 75 to 87 1-2 cents an hour.

CENSORED NEWSPAPERS REJECTED BY SENATE

Washington, May 19.—The senate, by a vote of 48 to 34, has stricken censorship of the press from the administration's spy bill. Censorship was removed from the bill previously, by a vote of 39 to 38, but the bare majority against a muzzled press encouraged advocates of this plan to attempt to reinstate the provision, but their last defeat is emphatic.

The question will now be settled by conferees representing both branches of congress, as the house has passed legislation regulating the press. The spy bill, as passed by the senate, empowers the post office department to suppress "treasonable publications."

PROTESTS TAX ON NEWSPAPERS.

Washington, May 19.—President Gompers has addressed a communication to organized labor protesting against the proposed increased postage rate of second-class matter from 1 to 2 cents a pound, and asks that every central and state body and affiliated union protest against this proposal. The bill would apply a "zone system" (district rates), which would increase the carrying cost of printed matter from 1 to 6 cents a pound.

"The public press, like every other individual, concern, or institution," says President Gompers, "should be required to pay its just proportion of war taxes. This, however, should be done by increasing the income and inheritance taxes, a tax upon profits and upon land values."

The trade union executive states that the proposed double and triple tax is without warrant and excuse. Such a condition, he says, will seriously menace the conditions of life and work of the men and women employed in the printing and closely related and kindred trades by throwing thousands of them out of employment.

"Can we afford to permit that part of the public press financed by and in the interest of large and wealthy combinations of men to control exclusively the means of information and thereby dominate the minds of the people of the country?" is asked.

"Profits and incomes should be taxed, but the very source of employment of our fellow workers and the maintenance of a liberal and free press should remain unimpaired."

WINDOW CLEANERS ADVANCE.

Denver, May 19.—The Window and House Cleaners' union, affiliated with the A. F. of L., has raised wages from $2 to $5 a week after a short strike and these workers now declare that the trade union movement is the best dividend producer on earth. Before organization rates were as low as $9 a week with no limit on hours. The new agreement provides a scale of $12 a week for the first two weeks; $13.50 for the third and fourth weeks; $15 for the fifth week and to continue in this proportion until the maximum of $18 for an eight-hour day and six-day week is reached. Overtime will be paid at the rate of price and one-half.

The success of these workers proves that any class of employes can better conditions if they but stand together.

DUNCAN GOES TO RUSSIA.

Washington, May 19.—President Wilson has appointed James Duncan, first vice president of the A. F. of L., a member of the commission which the United States will send to Russia. The other members of the commission are: Elihu Root, former secretary of state, chairman of the commission; Charles R. Crane, now in Russia on a diplomatic mission; John R. Mott, Y. M. C. A. official, New York; Cyrus McCormick, Chicago business man; Samuel R. Bertron, New York banker; Charles Edward Russell, journalist; Major General Scott, United States army, and Rear Admiral Glennon, United States navy.

GAINS BY BOILER MAKERS.

Cleveland, May 19.—The Big Four railroad has increased boiler makers' rates 2 1-2 cents an hour at the Cleveland round house and at Linndale. The new rate is 40 1-2 cents.

Kansas City, Mo., May 19.—The Boiler Makers' union has succeeded in establishing its new wage scale in every shop, with one exception and this local is in better shape than ever before. Two months ago the membership was 31; now it is 200.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, May 19.—Boiler Makers' union has established the 44-hour week in ship yards.

HONOR LINOTYPE INVENTOR.

Chicago, May 19.—A bronze bust of Ottmar Mergenthaler, inventor of the linotype (typesetting machine), was unveiled at the Shepard school in commemoration of the sixty-third anniversary of the inventor's birth. The ceremonies were conducted by the Old Time Printers' association.

COPPERSMITHS STRIKE.

Cincinnati, May 19.—Coppersmiths in this city suspended work to enforce the eight-hour day, which has been granted by several large concerns. These workers are affiliated with the Sheet Metal Workers' union.

CARPENTERS CONTINUE GAINS.

Indianapolis, May 19.—General Secretary Duffy of the Brotherhood of Carpenters reports the following recent gains by affiliates:

Saratoga Springs, N. Y., Vancouver, British Columbia; Rockville, Conn.; Dover, N. J., and Olean, N. Y., wages increased from 45 to 50 cents an hour. Ridgeway, Pa.—40 5-8 to 50 cents. Galesburg, Ill.—55 to 65 cents. Newport, R. I., and Akron, Ohio—55 to 60 cents. Butler, Pa.—50 to 62 1-2 cents. Pueblo, Col.—60 to 65 cents until June 15, 1917; 67 1-2 cents thereafter; eight hours and $4.50 a day for millmen. Poughkeepsie, N. Y.—47 3-4 to 50 cents. Marshalltown, Iowa—50 to 57 1-2 cents. Minneapolis—50 to 55 cents; Saturday half holiday during July and August. Toronto, Canada—45 and 50 to 55 cents. Pittsburg, Pa.—62 1-2 to 71 cents. Canton, Ohio—50 to 60 cents. Mattoon, Ill.—45 to 50 cents and nine hours until May 1, 1918; 50 cents and eight hours thereafter. Jamestown, N. Y.—43 3-4 to 50 cents. Lenox, Mass.—53 cent minimum. Lowell, Mass.—50 to 55 cents. Miami, Fla.—50 to 62 1-2 cents. North Shore, Mass.—35 and 50 to 45 and 50 cents; Saturday half holiday after October 1, 1917. Danvers, Mass.—50 cent minimum. Reynoldsville, Pa.—40 to 50 cents; hours reduced from nine to eight. Casper, Wyo.—62 1-2 to 75 cents. South Haven, Mich.—40 to 45 cents. Muskegon, Mich., Dubuque, Iowa, and Jackson, Mich.—45 to 50 cents and Saturday half holiday. Schenectady, N. Y.—50 to 60 cents. Rock Island, Davenport and Moline—55 to 62 1-2 cents. Kittanning, Pa.—From $3.52 to $4.50 a day. Franklin, Pa.—$4 to $4.80. Glen Cove, N. Y.—$4.50 to $5. West Palm Beach, Fla.—$4 to $4.50. Norfolk, Va.—$3.15 to $4 and union shop for shipwrights. Morgantown, W. Va.—$3.25 to $3.50; hours reduced from nine to eight. Trenton and Princeton, N. J.—$4.50 minimum.

TUBERCULOSIS MOST DEADLY.

Washington, May 19.—Statistics gathered by a life insurance company and published in tabular form in bulletin No. 207 by the federal bureau of labor statistics, shows that during the years 1911, 1912, and 1913 tuberculosis was responsible for the largest number of deaths (35 per cent) among clerks and office workers. Printers are next with 34.1 per cent; gas and steam fitters, 31.6 per cent; longshoremen, 29.2 per cent; teamsters and chauffeurs, 28.2 per cent; bartenders, 26 per cent; machinists, 25 per cent; cigar makers and tobacco workers, 24.1 per cent; textile workers, 22 per cent; iron molders, painters and paper hangers, 21.9 per cent; masons and bricklayers, 19 per cent; bakers, 18.8 per cent; laborers, 16.4 per cent; blacksmiths, 14 per cent.

Accidental violence was responsible for the largest number (42.3 per cent) of deaths among railroad enginemen and trainmen; railroad track and yard workers, 20.8 per cent, and coal miners, 20.4 per cent.

Respiratory diseases are prominent where the worker is exposed to colds, drafts and dampness, as masons and bricklayers, or to violent changes of temperature, as among teamsters and chauffeurs. Where work is heavy, as with iron molders, organic diseases of the heart prevail. Suicide is frequent where depressing influences are present, as among bakers and cigar makers, and typhoid fever is high where questionable water supplies are used, as among enginemen, trainmen, farmers, iron molders and laborers.

MUST DEPEND ON OURSELVES.

Chicago, May 19.—In moralizing on the recent bakers' strike in this city Editor Hohmann of the Bakers' Journal says:

"In this instance, and in many others it is hoped this fight has taught some lessons to our Chicago members, and if they have learned nothing more but that we must and can only rely upon the power of our own movement, and that we cannot and must not depend upon any outsiders, then this fight has not been waged in vain. And if it has more than ever convinced our membership of the necessity of organization then it has served at least some purpose."

The wage demand, as contained in the original agreement, calling for a weekly increase of $2 and 50 cents in the jobbers' wages, was granted.

"However, the union was compelled to make several important concessions," says the Bakers' Journal, which declares that the employers benefited by the situation prevailing at present and utilized the same in every direction.

"They also succeeded in taking undue advantage of the prevailing situation, which, under ordinary circumstances, they would have been unable to do. That ought to have been taken into consideration by our brothers before any strike action was taken, and had this been done possibly some of the sacrifices need not have been made."

BARBERS REDUCE WORK DAY.

Spokane, Wash., May 19.—The work day is reduced one hour and substantial wage increases have been secured by the Barbers' union, following a conference with employers.

Denver, May 19.—Every non-union barber shop in this city, but one, is working under union conditions as a result of a conference between employing barbers and Barbers' union No. 205. All non-union employing barbers were invited to attend a conference of union barbers and their employers and it was agreed that a basic schedule of prices and working conditions must be maintained. Barbering in Denver is 99 per cent union as a result.

WILL ARBITRATE DISPUTES.

St. Louis, Mo., May 19.—The Carpenters' District Council of this city and the Master Builders' association have signed a two-year agreement with arbitration provisions. Until July 1 of this year the wage rate shall be 65 cents an hour and 70 cents thereafter. Foremen's rates are an additional 10 cents an hour.

Rock Island, Ill., May 19.—A two-weeks' strike of carpenters in this city, Moline and Davenport has been settled. The men have secured a rate of 62 1-2 cents an hour for an eight-hour day. The former wage was 55 cents.

METAL WORKERS GAIN.

St. Louis, Mo., May 19.—Organized blacksmiths, machinists, boiler makers and sheet metal workers have signed an agreement with the Manufacturers' Railway company to run until such time as either party desires a change, which may be made on 30 days' notice. The minimum rate for all mechanics covered in the agreement is 52 1-2 cents an hour.

DISCHARGED FOR ASKING.

Knoxville, Tenn., May 19.—Several employes of the unorganized Babcock Lumber company, near here, were discharged because they circulated a petition asking for wage increases. A strike resulted. The company not only pays the lowest wage in this vicinity, but operates a company store that takes care of any loose change its employes may happen to have.

DESPERATE TACTICS AGAINST LABOR LAWS

Springfield, Ill., May 19.—In an attempt to block the passage of an eight-hour law for women and an anti-injunction bill opponents of this legislation have been circulating the story that the council of national defense has urged the defeat of all labor measures and that Governor Lowden has been advised by Secretary of War Baker that labor's anti-injunction bill should be defeated.

President Walker of the state federation of labor telegraphed Secretary of War Baker relative to this story and received the following reply:

"Have sent no message to governor of Illinois beyond that published statement of the council of national defense of April 7 urging that there be no breakdown or relaxation in legal safeguards upon hours or conditions of labor by reason of war emergency unless, in some specific instances, the council of national defense in Washington declared emergency conditions justified departure. Refer to local newspapers for full text of action by council of national defense."

In reply to a query on the same subject Miss Agnes Nestor of the International Glove Workers' union received the following reply from President Gompers:

"The safeguard of the nation in peace or in war depends that the eight-hour day shall obtain. An eight-hour day makes better workers, more productive workers, and safeguards their lives and health. No greater measure could be employed in defense of our republic and its perpetuity than the establishment of the eight-hour day throughout the republic of the United States."

FINE "PATRIOTS," THESE.

Washington, May 19.—In a letter to the house naval committee Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt asks for legislation to permit the navy to commandeer yachts and other small craft for coast defense work. He says that while many boats have been offered either free or on nominal lease rates, other owners are asking exorbitant rates and 200 or more have refused to sell at rates fixed by government appraisers.

The federal official said that one fishing vessel was appraised at $30,000. This was more than the cost of the vessel, but the owner would not sell for less than $112,000.

"More examples can be given. There are some worse and some better," it is stated.

"The owners will not sell except at a price that would amount to the cost of a new boat plus the estimated amount of income for two years plus a good profit. They will not lease because they are busy handling freight or expect to make money on fishing; some owners of pleasure craft and all brokers, because they want to make as large a profit as possible."

Out of 600 privately owned craft inspected by the government, 500 have been found suitable. The owners of 192 are ready to turn over their boats on notification. Under the circumstances the navy department wants authority to seize all the vessels desired.

MINERS' STRIKE AVERTED.

Washington, May 19.—Deplorable working conditions that have been opposed for 30 years by organized miners have been removed and wages increased 25 per cent in the central Pennsylvania field as a result of a conference in this city.

The conferees included Secretary of Labor Wilson, Secretary Lord of the A. F. of L. mining department, International Board Member Harlan of the United Mine Workers, representatives of the 50,000 Pennsylvania miners, and employers.

The agreement abolishes the free pushing of cars by miners, and "brushing," or dead work which miners in other fields are not compelled to do, is penalized. The workers agree that the contract marks a new era in that district and will remove dissatisfaction that almost expressed itself in the form of a strike.

Fairmont, W. Va., May 19.—United Mine Workers have secured their first union shop agreement in this section of the state. Wages are increased, the eight-hour day is agreed to, and the check off system established. About 2,000 men are benefited.

CARPENTERS ORGANIZE.

Indianapolis, May 19.—General Secretary Duffy reports that the Brotherhood of Carpenters chartered affiliates in the following localities during April:

Olympia, Wash. (ship carpenters and caulkers); Brighton, Col.; Manchester, N. H. (box makers); Selfirst, W. Va.; Carson City, Ill.; Glendive, Mont.; Boulder, Col.; Columbiana, Ohio; Camden, N. J. (ship carpenters); Scottdale, Pa.; Weston, W. Va.; Virginia, Minn.; Iroquois Falls, Ontario, Canada; Shelley, Idaho; Washington, D. C. (carpenters in government shops); Chanute, Kan.; Lonawa, Okla.; Sterling, Col.; York, Me.; Bellingham, Wash. (maritime builders); New York city (furniture workers); Greensburg, Ind.; East St. Louis, Ill. (maintenance and millwrights); Stanford, Mont.; St. Anthony, Idaho.

UNION LABEL AGITATION HURTS.

New York, May 19.—At the annual convention of the National Association of Manufacturers a lengthy report on the "evils" of trade union label agitation and an appeal that "American manufacturers do all in their power to prevent organized labor from victimizing the women of America," proves the effectiveness of union label propoganda.

The convention's committee—the committee on the union label—discussed the label agitation policy of organized labor, which was denounced as an "attack" against the unionist, the manufacturer, the merchant and "against the general public—especially the American women."

WEAVERS RAISE WAGES.

Philadelphia, May 19.—Art square weavers, affiliated with the United Textile Workers, have signed a one-year agreement with the Carpet Manufacturers' association. Wages are increased 12 1-2 per cent.

Franklin, N. H., May 19.—The Textile Workers' union has won its strike and secured a 10 per cent increase and recognition of the union's committee.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

New Haven, Conn., May 19.—Typographical union No. 47 has signed a three-year contract with newspaper proprietors. Wages are increased and for the first time an agreement has been reached on the apprentice question and a wage rate and working conditions will henceforth govern these boys.

GAINS IN NEW ROCHELLE.

New Rochelle, N. Y., May 19.—Organized plumbers and steam fitters have increased wages to $5.20 a day and union building laborers have established their new rate of $3.25 a day.